



**Cities & Towns Advisory Committee**  
 Sonoma County Community Development Commission

**Regular Meeting & Concurrent Public Hearing  
 with the Community Development Committee**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, February 15, 2023  
 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

[Meeting Recording](#)

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Svanstrom; Community Development Commission (CDC) staff initiated the roll call:

Committee Members Present

- Kevin Thompson (Cloverdale)
- Griselda Villarreal as proxy for Stephen Sotomayor (Healdsburg)
- Jenna Garcia (Rohnert Park)
- Kari Svanstrom (Sebastopol)
- Laura Simpson (Sonoma)
- Patrick Streeter (Windsor)

Committee Member Absent

- Noah Housh (Cotati)

CDC Staff Present

- Rhonda Coffman, Interim Executive Director
- Kathleen Kane, Interim Assistant Executive Director
- Martha Cheever, Housing Authority Manager
- Veronica Ortiz-De Anda, Community Development Associate
- Valerie Johnson, Community Development Associate
- Matthew Burns, Administrative Aide
- Susan Vahlstrom, Executive Secretary

**2. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda**

None

### **3. Approval of January 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Patrick Streeter moved to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Jenna Garcia.

#### **Public comments**

None

#### **Ayes**

Griselda Villarreal

Jenna Garcia

Kari Svanstrom

Laura Simpson

Patrick Streeter

#### **Abstain**

Kevin Thompson

#### **Absent**

Noah Housh

#### ***Motion passed***

### **4. Interim Director's Report**

Rhonda Coffman reminded everyone that we are returning to in-person meetings and is looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on March 15 in the CDC Hearing Room, 1440 Guerneville Road in Santa Rosa.

Martha Cheever shared a presentation on the Housing Authority's Cumulative Leasing Rate and Annual Budget Expended then answered questions from Committee members.

### **5. Summary of Funding Applications Received**

Valerie Johnson, Community Development Associate, gave an update on the 24 applications that were received. Staff is currently reviewing these applications and will provide preliminary funding recommendations for the Committee's approval at the March 15, 2023, meeting.

#### **Public comments**

Emailed comments were received just before the start of the meeting, and they will become an attachment to today's minutes.

### **6. HOME - American Rescue Plan Allocation Plan**

Veronica Ortiz-De Anda, Community Development Associate, shared a presentation that detailed the specifics of this program, and staff answered questions from the Committee members.

**Public comments**

Margaret DeMatteo

Jenna Garcia moved to approve recommendation of the draft Home American Rescue Plan Allocation Plan with recommended language added regarding impact evaluation at least annually and also requesting that staff include in their staff report to the Board of Supervisors with our recommendation for approval the discussion and comments we provided today regarding challenges approving funding allocations without knowing what the needs are currently or will be at the time of the NOFA and what viable applications there are and the need potentially for considering amendments to make sure we can be flexible to meet the needs of the community, and that the staff will ensure that there is a robust process for consultation with the Continuum of Care Board to consider the applications received regarding these funds; seconded by Kari Svanstrom.

**Ayes**

Kevin Thompson  
Griselda Villarreal  
Jenna Garcia  
Kari Svanstrom  
Laura Simpson  
Patrick Streeter

**Absent**

Noah Housh

***Motion passed***

**7. Items Board Members Would Like Placed on a Future Agenda**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

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**From:** susan verde <[susanverde789@gmail.com](mailto:susanverde789@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023 9:33 AM  
**To:** Veronica Ortiz-De Anda <[Veronica.Ortiz-DeAnda@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Veronica.Ortiz-DeAnda@sonoma-county.org)>  
**Subject:** Cloverdale ADA sidewalk improvement

**EXTERNAL**

Dear Veronica,

I am writing today to share my support of the ADA sidewalk improvement being considered in Cloverdale (East 1st street and Mulberry Dr.)

As a resident of Cloverdale I strongly support this improvement. I rely on a wheelchair for my mobility and it is essential for my ability to navigate travel that sidewalks be continuous and include curb cut access.

Having to traverse areas without curb cuts becomes not just a safety issue, but also incredibly difficult and at times impossible. Having to leave a sidewalk to travel on uneven surface textures can be challenging and unsafe for a variety of reasons.

An improvement would not just benefit wheelchair users, but also mobility scooters, those who might use canes, or families pushing strollers.

As a town with older infrastructure this would be a valuable improvement helping to not just keep the members of the community safe, but also a way to help community members connected and included through safer pathways of travel. What can seem to some as a step or two, can literally become a huge deterrent or literal roadblock for others. This improvement would alleviate this obstacle and create further inclusion of all members of Cloverdale.

Thank you,

Susan Verde  
Cloverdale, CA

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